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1859

REPORTS

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF MERRIMACK,

FOR

1858-9.



NASHUA:

PRINTED BY ALBIN BEARD.

1859.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

To the citizens of the town of Merrimack :

The whole amount of invoice, as taken by us, April 1st, 1858, including personal and real estate,	\$411,960	
Add 263 polls, (\$2.40,)	63,120	
	<hr/>	\$475,080
Reduced valuation being one half of one per cent.,		<u>\$2375 40</u>

RECEIPTS.

The assessments were as follows :

State tax,	305 90	
County tax,	540 27	
School tax,	874 00	
To defray town charges,	500 00	
Add for bearing money,	108 94	
School district No. 11,	20 96	
Highway taxes committed to Reuben H. Pratt for collection,	15 83	
	<hr/>	\$2365 90
Received from railroad tax,	300 63	
“ “ literary fund,	119 84	
“ “ County,	20 00	
“ “ C. T. Nourse, (liquor agent,)	40 00	
“ “ Charles Goodwin,	2 00	
	<hr/>	\$482 47
Total amount of receipts and assessments,		<u>\$2848 37</u>

EXPENDITURES.

SCHOOLS.

District No. 1,	\$83 42
" " 2,	73 42
" " 3,	189 42
" " 4,	100 42
" " 5,	85 42
" " 6,	71 42
" " 7,	82 42
" " 8,	76 42
" " 9,	97 42
" " 10,	35 21
" " 11,	71 42
" " 12,	51 42
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	\$1017 83

STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

County tax,	540 27
State tax,	305 90
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	\$846 17

TOWN OFFICERS.

Matthew P. Nichols, Superintending School Committee,	25 00
Hosea B. Spalding, do.,	25 00
David Jones, Selectman,	40 00
Thomas Parker, do.,	36 00
Abner C. Darrah, do.,	33 00
Leonard Walker, Town Clerk,	9 50
Samuel C. Anderson, Treasurer,	6 00
Reuben H. Pratt, Collector,	44 00
William McKean & A. McC. Wilkins, Auditors,	3 00
E. P. Parkhurst, Overseer of Poor,	19 00
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	\$240 50

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid Richard H. Center for work on road in District No. 6,	13 56
Luther W. Reed, do.,	4 50
Albert A. Jenkins, do.,	5 70
George F. Spalding, for use of scraper,	1 50
Joseph Hills, work on roads,	6 00
Smith E. Fields, do.,	6 50
Freeman Hills, do.,	3 00
George Boyson, breaking roads,	2 49
Gilman Foot, work on roads,	1 00
Josiah B. Chandler, cutting bushes,	3 00
Isaac C. Shedd, work on road,	1 00

Paid Joseph Shedd, do.,	1 00
George E. Haggett, do.,	25
Benjamin M. Hills, do.,	5 17
Richard H. Center, labor in Joseph Hills's district,	6 13
Henry N. Robbins, for bridge planks,	2 75
Abial Holt, do.,	3 70
Samuel W. Wright, do.,	4 19
John L. Reed, cutting bushes,	4 50
Henry Russell, (surveyor,) for breaking roads,	13 00
John Prince, do.,	1 50
Leonard Kendall, repairing bridge,	50
Jotham Robbins, (surveyor,) breaking roads,	6 40
Frederick Noyes, do.,	3 00
Moses Truell, do.,	1 50
John L. Spalding, do.,	4 00
Henry N. Robbins, do.,	1 92
Samuel B. Moor, do.,	2 88
George E. Haggett, do.,	7 69
John French, do.,	11 55
John Conrey, do.,	1 50
	<hr/>
	\$131 38

CONTINGENT EXPENSES.

Paid George K. Jewett for making bier and gate for burying ground in District No. 3,	4 50
N. Fuller, repair of Town House, <i>Hearse</i>	60 25
Teachers' Institute,	17 00
Reuben H. Pratt, stationery and car fare,	4 25
Albin Beard, for reports,	16 00
Leonard Walker, for guide boards,	6 00
George Drew, for 2 biers,	3 50
Reuben Barnes, 2d, warming meeting house for school commissioner,	1 50
Abner C. Darrah, stationery,	1 16
David Jones, do.,	2 13
Wm. E. Rockwood, care of hearse and Town House,	2 00
Anderson & Parker, school books,	2 25
Over assessment,	2 91
	<hr/>
	\$123 45

RECAPITULATION.

For schools,	1017 83
County tax,	540 27
State tax,	305 90

Contingent expenses,	123 45	
Poor off the Farm,	140 62	
Cash balance against town Farm,	425 66	
Town officers,	240 50	
Roads and bridges,	131 38	
	<hr/>	\$2925 61
Amount of assessments and receipts for 1858,		
being		2848 37
		<hr/>
Balance against the town for the business of		
the current year,		77 24
Town debt, March 1st, 1858,		406 82
Interest on town debt,		60 00
School tax assessed for district No. 11,		20 96
Abatements for 1857,		25 00
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Total town debt,		<u>\$590 02</u>

The foregoing report exhibits all the transactions of the Selectmen for the year ending Feb. 23d, 1859, all of which is respectfully submitted, by

DAVID JONES,	}	Selectmen of Merrimack.
THOMAS PARKER,		
ABNER C. DARRAH,		

The undersigned, a committee chosen by the town for the purpose of auditing the books and accounts of the Selectmen for the current year, have attended to that duty, and found all monies paid by them for the use of the town properly vouched, monies credited duly accounted for, the footings of the several accounts correctly added, and papers properly filed.

WILLIAM McKEAN,	}	Auditors.
ALEX. McC. WILKINS,		

Merrimack, Feb. 23, 1859.

ALMSHOUSE REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Levi Fisher, 5 lbs. tallow,	55
C. B. Tuttle, 74 lbs. ham,	8 88
T. F. Moore, 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. pork,	1 30
Anderson & Parker, eggs,	1 73
H. Green, 1 lamb,	1 00
J. Follansbee, 1 sheep,	5 00
J. D. Crosby, dinner, horse-baiting and eggs,	59
W. W. Merrill, 2 turkeys, 1 chicken,	3 75
W. B. Patten, refreshments,	50
P. W. Jones, 2 calves,	12 00
J. P. Weston, lumber,	1 50
Tin pedlar, 10 lbs. dried apple, &c.,	1 23
Different individuals, eggs,	2 39
E. Hardy, pickles,	30
Daniel Bixby, $\frac{1}{2}$ bush. potatoes,	25
W. W. Merrill, potatoes, berries, &c.,	2 79
J. A. Hartshorn, 20 chickens,	5 00
Different individuals, cherries and berries,	13 27
E. P. Parkhurst, 1 fowl,	25
J. A. Hartshorn, 12 chickens,	3 00
I. F. Crooker, potatoes and apples,	66
Simeon Kenney, for labor,	1 58
McClure & Co., beans, potatoes and apples,	2 71
Aaron Gage, and others for meat,	1 65
Samuel Swett, 10 bush. potatoes,	2 50
W. W. Merrill, turkey and potatoes,	1 46
E. Hardy, 2 turkeys,	1 26
Wm. O. Noyes, 3 lambs,	6 00
David Swett, lumber,	1 24
J. D. Crosby, 3 bbls. cider,	3 00
H. N. Robbins, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ do.	2 75
W. W. Merrill, 10 bush. potatoes,	4 00

J. P. Weston, pork and timber,	2 68
W. W. Merrill, chickens and turkeys,	1 55
S. C. Nesmith, 1 bbl. cider,	2 00
Anderson & Parker, 2 bush. potatoes,	80
I. C. Crooker, repairing horse-shed,	1 00
John McGilvary, 2 lbs. rolls,	1 00
Hapgood & Abbott, $\frac{3}{4}$ bush. cranberries,	2 62
G. Small, 1 turkey,	1 06
J. D. Crosby, horse-keeping,	33
C. C. Champney, 9 turkeys,	5 95
French, cow-hide,	5 70
Aaron Gage, 145 lbs. beef,	8 70
I. Coburn, horse-keeping,	75
F. P. Fitch, 500 lbs. straw,	1 62
Crooker & Gage, labor,	2 76
I. C. Crooker, pasturing cow,	1 50
J. P. Weston, sled shoes,	28
James Munroe, straw,	6 62
Seed corn and soap,	30
Individuals, use of bull,	10 25
I. C. Crooker, 4 prs. feeding,	2 00
N. R. Mitchell, 2 lbs. rolls,	1 00
W. W. Merrill, chickens,	2 88
Hapgood & Abbott, 8 prs. feeding,	4 00
I. F. Crooker, chickens,	72
F. Russell, 2 bushels corn,	2 00
McConihe & Hartshorn, corn and potatoes,	1 45
John Follansbee, 1 sheep,	3 00
McClure & Brothers, ham, apples and potatoes,	7 17
I. P. Weston, turkey and cat-skin,	1 65
Hapgood & Abbott, 6 prs. feeding,	2 50
W. W. Merrill, sheep-skin,	87
I. C. Crooker, 52 sleepers,	11 96
I. C. Crooker, chickens and mittens,	1 32
Individuals, for butter, 227 lbs.,	42 02
Individuals, for eggs,	63
Individuals, for apples,	49 57
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	\$286 50

EXPENDITURES.

Anderson & Parker, store goods,	69 53
Isaac McQuesten, store goods,	11 03
White & Lydston, store goods,	22 28
McClure & Brothers, store goods,	21 30
C. B. Tuttle, store goods,	11 00
E. P. Parkhurst, 11 bushels corn,	11 00
E. P. Parkhurst, for labor,	9 25
Wm. O. Noyes, beef,	10 33

Hapgood & Abbott, store goods,	93	97
I. C. Crooker, pasturing,	3	40
J. B. Fay, stove, &c.,	18	68
G. F. Nichols, medicine,		35
Mary Green, labor,	2	00
Levi Woodman, plank,		30
D. Russell, medicine,		37
L. Woodman, peas,		20
Geo. F. Stevens, store goods,		26
J. Shirley, hair,		25
Aaron Gage, 1 bushel barley,	1	00
Coburn, for goods,		72
John C. Green, labor,	6	50
H. N. Robbins, plank,	1	50
J. D. Crosby, medicine,		59
Lawrence, tin ware,	1	62
Dr. Moore, medicine,		50
W. Nichols, labor,		25
D. Swett, 5 bush. meal,	4	20
Z. G. Perry, veal,	1	15
Store goods,		40
D. Swett, 7 bush. meal,	3	00
I. Colburn, goods,	1	55
A. Gage, $\frac{1}{2}$ bush. beans,	1	33
Goods,	1	23
Dr. Moore, medicine,		62
John Whiting, meal,	4	85
Isaac Parker, labor,	2	00
T. H. Gibby medicine,	1	00
Merrill & Stevens, store goods,	3	23
French & Nichols, labor,	1	67
S. Kenney, veal,	11	09
Hapgood & Abbott, tea,		50
J. M. Parker, labor,	5	75
Aaron Gage, veal,	1	50
J. W. Blood, labor,	15	75
Peters, carding wool,	1	76
Flint, horn,		25
George F. Nichols, goods,	1	70
Crackers,	1	37
McClure & Brothers, sheeting,	3	87
G. F. Stevens, barrels,		83
Putty,		08
W. B. Sargent, 2 pigs,	3	00
J. D. Crosby, medicine,	1	29
L. Corey and H. E. Benson, labor,	31	00
Crackers,		90
W. W. Merrill, butter tub,		15
Charles Lewis, labor,	10	00
H. N. Robbins, bbl. flour,	6	50

N. H. George, taxes,	48	
D. H. Abbott, repairing furnace,	75	
Merrill & Stevens, goods,	2 25	
Charles H. Campbell, cattle,	57 00	
Aaron Gage, pasturing cattle,	1 62	
Mrs. Cady, spinning,	2 04	
Aaron Gage, cloths,	4 00	
I. C. Crooker, use of cow,	3 50	
Nelson R. Mitchel, labor,	6 50	
Nathan Parker, use of bull,	50	
Dr. Moore, medical attendance,	1 25	
F. Nichols, labor,	85	
Mr. Goodrich, fish,	1 05	
A. Savage, repairing shoes,	93	
George Drew, fish,	57	
Israel Fuller, use of cider mill,	60	
D. Swett, yoke irons,	25	
Blacksmith work,	16 32	
Paid Superintendent,	200 00	
Amount of expenses,	—	\$712 16
Amount of receipts,		286 50
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Balance against the farm,		\$425 66
From which deduct improvements:		
59 rods of wall,	59 00	
11 " " ditch,	11 00	
	—	\$70 00
		<hr/>
Leaving a final balance against the farm of		<u>\$355 66</u>

INVOICE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT THE FARM
February 16, 1859.

Stock.

1 horse,	60 00	
1 yoke of oxen,	130 00	
6 cows,	180 00	
8 two years old,	112 00	
3 one do.	27 00	
11 sheep,	38 00	
2 shoats,	17 00	
24 chickens,	8 30	
2 turkeys,	1 75	
	—	\$574 05

Hay and Grain.

17 tons English hay,	170 00	
2 tons meadow hay,	10 00	
1½ tons corn fodder,	7 50	
117 bush. corn,	117 00	
9 bush. rye,	9 00	
5 bush. oats,	2 50	
	<hr/>	\$316 00

Provisions.

3½ bush. beans,	[7 00	
½ do. peas,	50	
70 do. potatoes,	23 10	
3½ bbls. apples,	6 00	
½ do. beets,	75	
½ bush. onions,	45	
Cabbages,	50	
3 bush. turnips,	90	
¼ bbl. soap,	1 00	
40 lbs. soapgrease,	1 50	
⅔ bbl. cucumbers,	2 00	
29 lbs. tallow and candles,	3 00	
¼ bush. grass seed,	75	
64 lbs. dried apple,	6 40	
4 gallons pickles,	1 00	
3 do. molasses,	90	
32 lbs butter,	7 04	
78 lbs. lard,	10 00	
34½ lbs. cheese,	3 45	
273 lbs. ham,	30 00	
415 lbs. salt pork,	52 00	
½ bbl. flour,	3 75	
4 bush. meal,	4 00	
30 lbs. sausages,	3 60	
140 lbs. beef,	9 60	
9 lbs. fish,	40	
⅛ bush. cranberries,	25	
1 bbl. vinegar,	5 00	
2½ bbls. cider,	6 00	
7 lbs. coffee,	87	
10 lbs. sugar,	90	
1½ lbs. spices,	25	
	<hr/>	\$193 06

Personal Property at the Almshouse March 1st, 1858.

Stock, shoats, &c.,	544 00	
Hay and grain,	207 00	
Provisions,	169 75	
Farming tools,	191 20	
Household furniture,	150 00	
	<hr/>	\$1261 95

Personal Property at the Almshouse, Feb. 16, 1859.

Stock, shoats, &c.,	574 05	
Hay and grain,	316 00	
Provisions,	193 06	
Farming tools, same as last year,	191 20	
Household furniture, same as last year,	150 00	
	<hr/>	\$1424 31
Increase from 1858,		\$162 36
Which take from balance against the Farm leaves,		193 30
Balance against the Farm for 1858, including an error in favor of the Farm of \$100, and decrease of invoice from 1857,		<u>\$437 23</u>

Expenses of Poor off the Farm.

Daniel Larabee, for support of son,	52 00	
Alex. McC. Wilkins, for Lucy Wilkins,	26 00	
Rebecca King,	5 25	
John Stone,	8 00	
Francis McClure,	7 00	
Adam C. Butterfield,	5 00	
Mrs. King and Mrs. Barnes,	10 37	
R. P. Leonard, for support of his brother,	26 00	
Nathan Parker for funeral expenses of John Thompson, 1856,	1 00	
	<hr/>	<u>\$140 62</u>

Assistance rendered to different individuals at the County's expense, amounts to \$30.30, which has been paid in full by the County.

REMARKS.

It will be seen by the foregoing report that our Poor Farm falls far short of paying its own expenses. Although we have made a saving from last year, by reckoning the improvements of \$243.93, I think by a proper course of management our Farm may be restored to its former condition, when it will pay its own bills without any assistance from the treasury. Our poor numbers 11; they have enjoyed remarkable health the past year. They manifest a disposition to assist in their support as far as they are able, which is encouraging to the town.

Mr. and Mrs. Crooker are deserving of much credit for their good management at the Farm, with the exception of a few cases of discipline, which I think has been quite too severe. It is very necessary that we should govern ourselves in order that we may take a wise course in governing others. All of which is respectfully submitted.

ELIJAH P. PARKHURST, Overseer of the Poor.

R E P O R T

OF THE

SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Fellow citizens :—Your committee have endeavored to perform their duty with an eye single to the true interests of education, in accordance with your wishes, and in compliance with the laws of the State. We are aware of the importance of a faithful discharge of our duty ; yet we would make no loud profession of earnestness and zeal, but leave our labors to be judged of by our fellow townsmen. And now, when about to resign our trust, we beg leave to submit the following report.

DISTRICT NO. 1. GEORGE C. INGALLS, Agent.

The Summer term was taught by Miss Annette J. Parker. This school is in a backward state. A new and comfortable house has been built within the year, and it is hoped the district will furnish it with outline maps, globe, &c., which are very necessary to have in every school-room.

The Winter Term was under the care of Miss Lydia B. Clapp, and with the accession of several large scholars, the school passed a very good examination.

DISTRICT NO. 2. FREEMAN NICHOLS, Agent.

Miss A. Janette Crosby, Teacher. There has been as usual no Summer school. The Winter term was visited in the early part of it, and appeared to be in perfect order. As the school is still keeping, we cannot give a full report. But being in good hands, we trust it will bear a good examination at the close.

DISTRICT NO. 3. CAPT. JOSEPH C. MOORE, Agent.

Miss Frances Savage, Teacher. We visited this school early in the Summer term, and found a great deal of confusion and noise.— We endeavored to talk plainly to the scholars, and got their promise that they would try and do better, and we are happy to say that they in a good measure redeemed their promise. At the close of the school the reading classes appeared well, especially the first. In other branches of study the improvement was fair.

Winter term, Charles C. Hunkin, Teacher. The average attendance during the winter term of twelve weeks was very good. Scarcely a scholar left till the school closed. There seemed to be unusual harmony and good feeling, and from appearances at its close we judge that the scholars have been attentive to their work. Their deportment at the closing examination entitles them to much praise, and we earnestly hope that any improvement which has been made in this direction may prove lasting. The number of visits made by parents and by "citizens and others" during the term and especially at its close, shows an interest in the school which is to be greatly commended and encouraged. Considering all the advantages of this school, it ought not to be second to any in any country town in the State. There is good material to build with, and with a firm, judicious and persevering effort on the part of parents and all interested, the school may justly stand in a high rank. And that our successors may be able so to report it, is our sincere and earnest desire.

DISTRICT NO. 4. SULLIVAN NESMITH, Agent.

The Summer term was in charge of Miss Nancy S. Colburn. There was not that degree of interest manifested on the part of the scholars, which is desirable, yet they made some progress.

The Winter term was kept by Miss Lucretia D. Campbell of Nashua. The school commenced under favorable auspices, and all went on well till the addition of one or two large scholars, who did not come for the purpose of learning anything, when the order of the school was somewhat disturbed; but they soon left the school and the school passed a very good examination at its close.

DISTRICT NO. 5. WALTER REED, Agent.

This school is very small, hardly large enough to be called a school. The Summer term was kept by Miss Clara K. Reed, and although it was the teacher's first attempt, yet they made fair progress.

The winter term was under the charge of Mr. Abner J. Cragin of Temple. This was his first attempt also, and for the most part very successful.

DISTRICT NO. 6. LUTHER W. REED, Agent.

The Summer Term was taught by Miss A. Janette Crosby, and the winter term by Mr. James T. Jones, both teachers of some experience, and the pupils made commendable progress under their instruction.

DISTRICT NO. 7. WM. M. N. SMITH, Agent.

Miss Eliza S. Heald, Teacher. A visit to this school in the Summer was a treat to those who love a quiet and orderly school. The instruction given was thorough. The scholars appeared happy and diligent in their studies, and of course none but a good report can be made of such a school.

Teacher of Winter term, Rev. Abel Fletcher. The Winter school was increased by the addition of some large scholars, and was somewhat different in character from the Summer term. There has been good improvement in Writing and Arithmetic and a fair progress in other branches, though there has not been that harmony and kind feeling in the school which is essential to its highest good. We are satisfied that all in the district are desirous of having a well disciplined school. And in order to effect this, it will be necessary to employ the best of teachers—such as are known to be well skilled in school government. No others need be employed, and when employed they must be sustained by the district, else they will accomplish but little good.

DISTRICT NO. 8. G. W. GILCHRIST, Agent.

Teacher of Summer term, Miss Sarah E. Jones. The attendance during the Summer term was quite constant and punctual. The scholars manifested a great deal of interest in the school, and made good proficiency in their studies. Whispering in school was not allowed, and we are happy to say that the habit was greatly suppressed. We are satisfied with the instruction given and the improvement made of it. The attendance of parents and numerous teachers at the examination added great interest to the occasion.

Teacher of Winter term, Carrie E. Morgan. If the progress of the school was less successful in the Winter than in the Summer, the cause in part, at least, is shown in the register by the numerous marks of absence and tardiness.

DISTRICT NO. 9. JAMES HALE, Agent.

Miss Martha R. Tufts, Teacher. Both terms of this school were under the direction of the same teacher. The elementary branches have been thoroughly taught. The classes in the Second and Third readers read remarkably well. There are some fine little spellers here as well as readers, and nothing but time and opportunity are wanting to make them excellent scholars. Gentleness and kind attention secured to the teacher the love and respect of those she instructed. Two private schools have been acceptably taught during the year, one of which is not yet finished.

DISTRICT NO. 10. CAPT. NATHAN PARKER and DEA. MOODY
M. STEVENS, Agents.

Teacher of Summer Term, Miss Sophie E. Phelps. This school in the Summer appeared well. The scholars appreciated their advantages and applied themselves closely to their studies. The reading here has been essentially improved. We are well satisfied with the instruction given and with the attainments made by the scholars.

Teacher of Winter term, Miss Fannie M. Moore. The Winter term was very pleasant and profitable. There was a lively interest taken in the school by both teacher and scholars. Whispering was almost entirely abandoned—only a few instances occurred during the term. It would lessen the teacher's labor if the number of classes could be reduced; we hope it may be done. The interest taken by the agents and others in the district exerts a happy influence upon the school.

DISTRICT NO. 11. Mr. WILLIAM EAYRES, Agent.

The Summer term was taught by Miss Martha T. Crosby of Nashua, and the Winter term (which is in session now,) has been under the charge of Miss Ellen J. Adams of Nashua. We believe it is their first attempt at teaching, yet so far as we can judge, they have been very successful.

DISTRICT NO. 12. THOMAS M. KING, Agent.

This school, as heretofore, has had a Summer and Fall session, both of which have been under the instruction of Miss Betsey J. Bills. Both examinations passed off very satisfactorily.

REMARKS.

A very good degree of interest has been manifested during the past year, and the schools have been as well conducted, with perhaps two or three exceptions, as they have been heretofore. There has been about \$897 expended the past year for the support of our schools, not including the amount appropriated by other towns in Districts No. 10 and 12.

The whole No. of scholars attending school two weeks and upwards, 306. Average attendance in the town, 251. Amount to each scholar attending, \$2.93.

There has been too much remissness on the part of teachers and agents, in regard to the register. No teacher is entitled to his or her pay, till they have complied with the requirements of the law in this respect, and notwithstanding some teachers have been suffered to take them home with them to fill out, at this time four of them have not been received. Agents should be more particu-

lar in this respect, and not pay a teacher till they present the register completed and signed. There is also a great discrepancy in regard to the attendance and tardiness. In one district the No. of days' attendance is put down as more than the No. of school days in the term, notwithstanding the scholars are marked as having been absent several days. Now this is a gross carelessness on the part of the teacher, or an intention to deceive in regard to the true condition of the school.

Your committee would do injustice to their own feelings, and prove themselves unworthy the confidence you have reposed in them, if they should speak only of the pleasing side; for while there are many matters connected with our schools, which should give us pride and satisfaction, there are many abuses and deficiencies which we should labor to remedy.

If we have made any *progress*,—if we have gained *anything*, the past year,—it is an evidence that there remains much good to be gathered up, and shows plainer than words can do, the great distance between where we now stand, and the position we may attain by proper and renewed efforts.

In thus speaking of the errors and abuses that still exist in our schools, your committee are actuated by no fault-finding spirit, but by the stern demands of duty. One of the evils to which we would call your attention, is an irregular attendance. Although the present report will show that the average attendance has been more than heretofore, yet there exists a great evil to overcome. The average loss in some of the schools has been something more than one-fifth of the whole, and in some it has been much more. Now if to this evil we add another, namely, tardiness and early dismissions, we shall bring the average loss of schooling up to nearly one-fourth.

Ways and means have been so often recommended to your notice, that it may seem unnecessary to make any new recommendations. Still your committee believe these evils can be overcome by a very little effort. *If you are determined that your children shall be constant in their attendance, and in season for the duties of the school, the evils will no longer exist to haunt you in every annual report.*

Another evil is the lack of interest on the part of parents in not frequenting the schoolroom oftener. All who feel an interest in the education of the young, should *manifest* that interest. But the question is, how shall that interest be manifested? To attend "town meeting" and vote to appropriate six or eight hundred hundred dollars, is but a small part of the duty we owe to our schools. One great reason why there is not better order and more evident improvement, is because the scholars have looked upon the school room as a kind of *free prison*, and upon the school duties as something of far less importance than play. Hence it is important that parents should heal this wrong impression, and cure this distaste. To do this they must know where the school house is, and who teaches the school.

Too much has been left to the district and town committees. It is expected that they will take the whole charge of it, and see that everything is right. But this ought not so to be. Every father and mother should feel that they are a *select* committee, and that it is their special duty to know what progress their children are making, and how they conduct themselves in school hours.

If your children see that you frequent the school-room, they will not shun it; and if they see that you respect the teacher, and have confidence in his abilities, they will show a like respect and confidence in his or her judgment. But on the contrary, if you are constantly complaining about the teacher before your children, when perhaps you have not been near the school and know nothing about it, any one will see the effect it will produce upon the child. Another evil is in selecting District Agents. Although we have been fortunate for the most part, in the selections the past year, yet it is frequently the case that young and inexperienced men are selected, who have no families, and who, it cannot be expected, can have that interest which is necessary.

When a good agent has been selected, he should be prevailed upon to remain some length of time, even if you have to be to the expense of paying him something for doing it. Your committee feel that it may not be inappropriate to make a few remarks upon the selection of teachers.

The opinion which once prevailed, that almost any one would answer to teach a school, especially if he would "*work low*," is not now considered a sound one. The office of school teacher is one of peculiar importance. It is not enough that a teacher possesses one talent, or one trait of character. On the contrary, his mental and moral qualifications should be considered of the highest importance. *Nature, too, must have done her part.* The personal appearance of a teacher will exert a great influence upon the school in forming and moulding the character and disposition of the scholar. It is said that a pupil "*will summer and winter a teacher in half a day.*"

An individual may glory in college honors, and yet be wholly incompetent to take charge of a common school; his qualifications and attainments may be adapted to the professor's chair, and with all these advantages, he may not be able to teach a country school with success.

One other evil in our schools is a multiplicity of text books, and in consequence of which, the teacher's inability to classify the school properly. To remedy this evil somewhat, we have recommended Town and Holbrook's series of Readers, and they have been introduced into several of the schools the past winter. We hope at the commencement of our summer schools to see them introduced into *all* the schools.

Another, and in our opinion, the greatest evil existing, is the large No. of school districts, and although we would not recommend the redistricting of the town at present on account of the number of almost new houses, yet we would earnestly urge upon districts that may hereafter want new houses, to have an eye to this matter. The time will come when it will be thought best to have at least *two* less districts in town.

Your committee had intended to allude to several other matters having a bearing upon the management of our schools, but we feel that we have already trespassed upon your patience. We will, however, before bringing our report to a close, say a few words upon the importance of education upon our prospects as a nation. The thorough education of our children is, and will ever be, the safeguard of our free institutions. We may raise armies, we may girdle our country with forts—but when the general intelligence of the people begins to wane, these strong arms of a nation's power, cannot maintain and defend our freedom, our liberty, and our rights. Our fathers stood first in defence of the privileges we now enjoy. Let their sons always be found foremost in the support of those principles which will preserve them unimpaired.

Respectfully submitted,

M. P. NICHOLS, }
H. B. SPALDING, } Committee.

Merrimack, March 1st, 1859.

[See statistical table on next page.]]]

SUMMER TERM.

No. of District,	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Whole No. of scholars,	18		40	21	12	25	21	19	57	20	20	23
Average attendance,	15		36	16	10	21	17	16	44	16	17	21 ½
Wages of Teacher per mo., incl'g bd.	\$16.		\$18.	\$11.*	\$12.	\$9.*	\$15.	\$17.	\$19.	\$15.	\$10.*	\$16.
Length of school in weeks,	7		12	13	8	9	8	8	9	10	7	8
No. of instances of tardiness,	27		138	95	5	30	20	11	169	50	124	41
No. of scholars not absent 1-2 day,	4		3	3	1	9	4	4	2	2	1	8
No. of visits by citizens and others,	30		26	60	32	30	20	49	56	25	10	25

WINTER TERM.

No. of District,	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Whole No. of scholars,	28		50	24	13	23	27	21	53	18	18	25
Average attendance,	23		44	20	10	19	22	14	41	16	12	22
Wages of teacher per mo., incl'g bd.	\$18.		\$35.	\$14.*	\$24.	\$10.*	\$23.*	\$16.	\$19.	\$16 ½.	\$10.*	\$16.
Length of school in weeks,	10		12	12	9	45	10	10	10	9	20	8
No. of instances of tardiness,	51		419	77	71	3	61	63	145	40	325	58
No. of scholars not absent 1-2 day,	0		5	4	0	30	0	0	3	3	0	4
No. of visits by citizens and others,	37		80		23	39	7	22	37	30	11	25

*Teachers boarded among the scholars.

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